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REPORT OF THE SUB-REGIONAL MEETING OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE OF CIVIL AVIATION FROM EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA ON THE YAMOUSSOUKRO DECLARATION

Mauritius, 1st December 1990

A. ORGANIZATION

1. The sub-regional meeting of Ministers of Civil Aviation from Eastern and Southern Africa on the Yamoussoukro Declaration was held in Mauritius on 1st December 1990.

B. ATTENDANCE

2. The following member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa attended the meeting: Burundi, Comoros, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mauritius, Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

3. Also represented at the meeting were the following inter-governmental and International Organizations: the African Airlines Association (AFRAA), the African Development Bank (ADB), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

C. OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The Coordinating Minister for Eastern Africa, Honourable Jackson Makweta, MP, from Tanzania paid tribute to the Mauritian Government and Air Mauritius for their generous gesture of co-operation in preparing and hosting this major Air Transport Conference. The Minister then highlighted the salient features of the Yamoussoukro Declaration which was designed to enhance the viability and competitiveness of African Airlines. Noting with pleasure that the Experts had during their two-day meeting identified practicable programmes promoting economic benefits, the Ministers expressed the hope that their recommendations would be approved by the Ministers and expeditiously implemented.

5. On behalf of the Government of Mauritius and in his own name, Honourable Jean-Claude de l'Estrac, Minister of External Affairs of Mauritius, extended a warm and fraternal welcome to all the distinguished delegates. The Minister said that the meeting in Mauritius will undoubtedly contribute to the strengthening of the long-standing friendship between African neighbours and the Government and people of Mauritius. The Minister further stated that the necessary co-operation within Africa will be enhanced if we promote a climate of mutual trust and confidence, ensure self-propelled dynamism to act as catalyst of co-operation and provide an unfailing commitment to the cause of co-operation. The Minister congratulated the Experts for having completed an impressive amount of work and for having concluded that a practical, realistic and pragmatic approach would best serve the interests of the African countries and airlines.

6. The representative of ECA stated that he have been encouraged by the results of the Experts meeting and the emphasis on pragmatic action. He also reminded Delegates that the aim of co-operation was an economic one to ensure and promote the competitiveness and of viability of African Airlines.

D. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Election of officiers (agenda item 2)

7. On a proposal of Uganda, seconded by Mauritius, the meeting elected the following officiers:

Chairman: Tanzania

Rapporteur: Mauritius

The secretariat of the meeting comprised ECA, ONU and AFRAA.

Adoption of the agenda and provisional work programme

8. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of officers
3. Presentation of the Report of the Chairman of the meeting of Experts
4. Consideration of the Report of Experts
5. Adoption of the Report of Experts
6. Adoption of the Report on the Ministerial meeting
7. Closing of the meeting

Presentation of the report of the Chairman of the Meeting of experts (agenda item 3)

9. Sir Harry Tirvengadum (Mauritius), Chairman of the meeting of Experts, pointed out that the meeting of Civil Aviation Authorities and Airlines of the Eastern and Southern African countries had been convened pursuant to the decision of the Second Meeting of the Co-ordinating Ministers held in Addis Ababa in April 1990. Sir Harry reported that after examination of the ECA report on the exchange of information between airlines, the meeting felt that in principle the outcome of the report had covered all the requirements of Phase one of the Yamoussoukro Declaration and that several Airline groups had embarked on various stages of implementation in relation to Phases two and three. Accordingly the meeting of Experts agreed that there was no need to rigidly adopt the types of co-operation enumerated in the Phases two and three of the Yamoussoukro Declaration. Sir Haryy further reported that the meeting of Experts took note of Document TRANSCOM/AIF/4S entitled "Implementation process of Yamoussoukro Declaration" and Document TRANSCOM/AIR/48 entitled "Standard General Guideline for linkage of African Airlines" and concluded that it was premature to envisage multi-nationals or mergers since these would require costly and heavy legal and management structures. The meeting, however, have agreed that consortium

and jointly owned airline were more realistic ventures amenable to quick implementation and easy acceptance. Sir Barry also reported that the meeting had noted that there was no less than ten airlines which have already embarked on co-operative ventures and that the meeting had highlighted the need for more simple and economically viable joint ventures on commercial lines to insure a balanced benefit for the parties.

Consideration of the report of experts (agenda item 4)

10. The meeting considered the provisions of the report and the more substantive paragraphs of the report were presented by the Chairman of the Committee of Experts in their every detail. Amendments to the report were suggested and discussed and when adopted, incorporated in the revised report of the experts annexed to this paper.

Adoption of the report of experts (agenda item 5)

11. On a proposal of the Chairman the revised report of Experts was unanimously adopted.

Adoption of the report on the ministerial meeting (agenda item 6)

12. On a proposal of the Chairman it was unanimously agreed that the Rapporteur (Mr. Vijay Ramnassing of Mauritius) would prepare the report and arrange for the Secretariat to promptly distribute it to all the Delegates.

Closing of the meeting

13. On a proposal of Somalia the meeting unanimously agreed to request Hon. Jean-Claude de L'Estrac and the co-ordinating Minister for Eastern Africa sub-region to convey its sincere gratitude to the Government of Mauritius and to congratulate Air Mauritius for the organisation of the meeting. There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

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